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U.S.D.A. "CHOICE" BEEF
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- Rainbow Trout 39c
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MAGIC CHEF

Two-Party System Must Offer Real Choice to Voters

By Charles E. Chapel, Assemblyman, 46th District

In a free Republic, voters elect their representative leaders from the ranks of many eager candidates. Unlike dictatorship countries, or totalitarian governments, a free Republic endures as such because of the right of its citizens to a free choice among candidates.

In a totalitarian state, if there is any election at all, it is a showcase sham where the voters do not have a free choice among candidates. Their only choice is to rubber-stamp the officials that the existing leaders have chosen for them. This is why when Russia boasts of a 95 per cent-plus turnout at elections it is a mockery of the essence of voting. Webster gives as a definition of "vote": "The right to exercise a wish, choice, or expression of will . . ." When there is no real, free choice among candidates, there is no real vote.

In a free Republic, the citizens have the right to protest the actions of their leaders by Constitutional means, such as by electing new leaders. This is where the opposition party shows its value.

WHERE THERE is protest over deficit spending, let us propose candidates who would pursue sound fiscal policy based on balancing the spending with the income. Where there is protest over weak foreign policy that allows our citizens to be manhandled in Zanzibar and killed in East Germany, let us offer candidates who would present a STRONG United States of America to the world and recapture our former prestige of strength.

BY CONSTANTLY prodding the incumbent administration to come forth with the will of the people, to come forth with campaign promises, by exposing improper actions within the incumbent administration, the opposition party keeps the incumbent administration "honest." In dictatorships and totalitarian states, we do not see this in practice. Not for long, at any rate, for the multi-scarred firing-squad walls bear testimony that "opposition parties" are not tolerated.

The duty of the opposition party is not only to constantly find fault where fault is to be found, but to offer a GENUINE choice to the voters. A choice is not a genuine choice if it consists of simply a change in faces but not a change in policy.

If the opposition party protests the incumbent administration is lax with public funds and is operating under a misguided system of deficit spending that will lead to increased national debt and higher inflation, it hardly seems sensible for that opposition party to then offer to the voters, as an alternative administration, men who have indicated they too believe in deficit spending.

IF THE OPPOSITION party protests the current administration has a weak foreign policy and has allowed communism to spread, it hardly seems sensible for that opposition party to offer as a choice men who have indicated they would pursue a similar course.

I could go on and on, using issues such as increased welfare spending, reduction in defense weapons, trade with Russia, increased foreign aid to countries who vote against us in the United Nations, allowing nations who are in arrears to vote in the United Nations, and

the point I am trying to make would be the same: It makes no sense at all for the opposition party to offer, as a CHOICE to voters, men who would pursue the same policies, with minor changes, as the administration they are trying to replace.

This folly would constitute an abridgement of the right of voters "to exercise a wish choice, or expression of will." This would be more like giving the voters the right to rubber-stamp the policies the current administration is following. This is not the proper course of action of a good opposition party.

Flashing Red Lights on Bus Mean: 'STOP'

To clarify the confusion regarding when a motorist must stop in the vicinity of a school bus, Bradford M. Crittenden, California Highway Patrol commissioner, has issued the following information:

"When a dual red light is flashing on a school bus, either front or rear, motorists must stop before passing and remain stopped until the red lights cease. The only exception to the law involves divided highways. Motorists on the opposite side of the roadway are not required to stop.

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